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Friends of the Library Newsletter Autumn 2017

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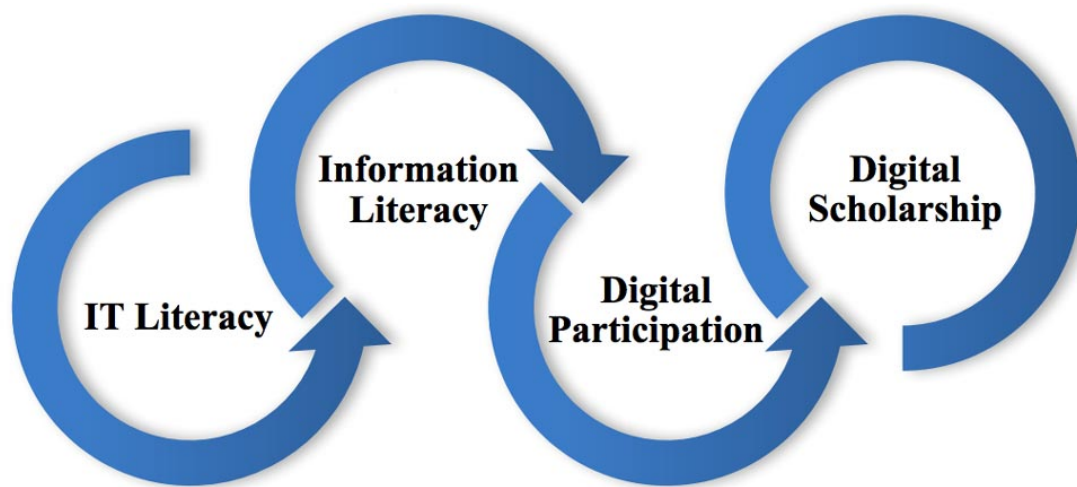
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SPU Library continues legacy of promoting information literacy with digital literacy

A recent report from the Pew Research Center, "[The Future of Truth and Misinformation Online](#)," showed experts "evenly split on whether the coming decade will see a reduction in false and misleading narratives online." While 51 percent of these experts do not expect the information environment to improve, 49 percent were more hopeful. Members of this latter group acknowledged that "misinformation and bad actors have always existed but have eventually been marginalized by smart people and processes," and they "believe better information literacy among citizens will enable people to judge the veracity of material content and eventually raise the tone of discourse."



Librarians have taught information literacy and related content at SPU for decades and currently teach over 200 class sessions each year. Last year, as part of the University's new writing program, librarians began teaching embedded research sessions within disciplinary writing seminars. In addition to linking writing and research literacies, the Library has been evolving its instruction program and services to include digital literacies. New competencies in information technology literacy, digital participation, and digital scholarship now supplement information literacy. And each competency includes attention to the cultivation of reflective and ethical dispositions. Evaluations of instruction sessions, writing courses, and library programs reveal the relevance of teaching information and digital literacies for student success and, we believe, holistic flourishing beyond college.

Library launches new Information Studies minor

As information and communication technologies (ICTs) continue to change our lives and world, the study of information is becoming increasingly important. To further respond to the need for more reflective, critical, and ethical engagement with information and ICTs, the Library will begin offering a minor in Information Studies next year. Information Studies explores the creation, dynamics, management, and use of information and ICTs and examines the relationships

between people, information, and technology. This new minor provides a foundation for information-related professions, as well as relevant knowledge and skills for careers in a variety of fields, and will help prepare students to thrive academically, professionally, and spiritually in our information society.

This minor, designed to support and supplement related programs in the arts, sciences, and professions, creates a new curricular space at SPU for understanding and shaping our present information age. The program consists of three core courses: “Information and Attention,” which considers the nature of information, attention, and agency; “Digital Literacy and Life,” which explores the digital dimension of our lives; and “Information and Society,” a service-learning course examining information challenges in Seattle. The minor also includes electives drawn from other disciplines such as art, computer science, history, and philosophy and an integrative independent research project or internship. While there are similar programs at other schools, this will be a unique offering for a Christian university.

ETM and the Library combine to enhance teaching and learning



Last year the department of [Educational Technology and Media](#) (ETM) became

part of the Library. Bringing together a range of professional skills and programs — instructional design and technologies, instructional services and research, and faculty and student scholarship — this change enables us to integrate programming for faculty and students and find innovative ways to advance teaching, learning, and research at SPU.

Last summer, R. John Robertson joined the library faculty as Digital Education Librarian to lead ETM. Prior to joining SPU, Robertson was an instructional designer with Oregon State University Ecampus. Robertson's previous experience includes working with e-portfolios at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and working with research projects at the Center for Digital Library Research and the Center for Educational Technology and Interoperability Standards at the University of Strathclyde. Some of the projects Robertson and his team are working on this year include faculty development on blended courses and online presence, supporting exploration of scholarly blogging and open educational resources, and providing pedagogical and technological support for faculty.

SPU Library Numbers

In academic year 2016–17:

424,077 entries into the Ames Library.

31,467 print books checked out.

10,093 e-books checked out.

240 information literacy sessions taught by librarians.

6,889 reference and research consultations.

Orbis Cascade Alliance Numbers

SPU is one of **39** universities and colleges in the [Orbis Cascade Alliance](#).

Combined, there are over **30 million** items in Alliance libraries.

The Alliance provides access to over **178,000** e-books.

SPU patrons checked out **3,997** items from other Alliance libraries.

The SPU Library delivered **3,444** items to other Alliance libraries.

For more information about the Library in 2016–17, see our [annual report](#).

Connect

Become a Friend of the Library by giving to an endowment that enhances both the quantity and quality of resources available to SPU students and scholars. If you are not already a member, or if you have not yet renewed your annual membership, please visit the Friends of the Library [giving site](#).

Attend the Library's speaker series [Creative Conversations](#), in which members of the SPU community share scholarly and creative works in progress. The series runs during the school year and is open to the public.

Explore the Library's website, and the resources and services available through it, at spu.edu/library.



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